

ART. III.—*Description of a New Victorian Helichrysum.*

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(With Plate V.)

[Read 20th April, 1922.]

***Helichrysum Gatesii*, n.sp.**

Fruticulus humilis circiter 15 cm. altus, caulibus saepe occumbentibus rarius ramosis adpresse albo-lanatis, foliis alternis, subamplexicaulibus oblanceolatis vel linearibus subtus dense supra sparse albo-lanatis margine paulo recurvatis undulatisque 2-4 cm. longis 0.5-1 cm. latis, capitulis solitariis caules superne dissite foliatis terminantibus campanulatis circiter 1 cm. longis latisque, involucri bracteis numerosis plerumque longo-linearibus scariosis stramineis rugulosis ad apicem tenuibus ciliolatis aureis ruginosis subpatentibus, exterioribus brevioribus omnibus praeter intimas longe lanatis involucri vix superantibus, pappi setis circiter 20 inferne sparse barbellatis superne breviter plumosis, floribus foemineis paucis periphericis circiter 12 pappi setis instructis, acheniis glabris erostribus 1.5 mm. longis, pappi setis 6 mm. longis.

On hard dry ground on hillsides, Lorne, Vic. Rev. A. C. F. Gates, Dec. 7th, 1921. Flowering December to April.

A plant about 15 cm. high, with the habit and general aspect of *Leptorrhynchus Waitzia* or *L. pulchellus*, with alternate leaves, and with stems and the under side of the leaves woolly white. Flower heads solitary on rather long stems, with distant leafy bracts towards the flower heads. Involucral bracts not expanding into a ray, the outer ones shorter, and all embedded in cottony wool growing from their edges, wrinkled, and with light golden ciliate tips. Florets scarcely exceeding the involucre, with about 20 pappus bristles excepting the few female florets which have about 12. All pappus bristles sparsely barbellate below, shortly plumose at the summit. Achenes glabrous, not beaked.

Reference to page 612, vol. iii., Fl. Aust., will indicate the difficulty encountered in assigning a place to this plant. The bracts, consisting of woolly-edged linear claws point to *Ixiolaena*, but the numerous pappus bristles plumose at the summit keep it out of that genus. It is here placed out of *Leptorrhynchus* on account of the shortness of the florets, and the absence of distinct upward narrowing of the achenes. It approaches near to *Helichrysum ambiguum*, Turcz. (*Leptorrhynchus*, Bth.), but that species has female florets with few or no pappus bristles, and a very different involucre. From *H. rutidolepis* it is distinguished by having all flowers provided with at least 12 pappus bristles, and by the short ciliate wrinkled laminae of the bracts.

